

An optical method of determining a woman's fertility status is provided, wherein an optical system has a sample receiving surface and an eyepiece, such that the sample can be viewed in focus through the optical system without altering the distance between the eyepiece and the sample receiving surface using ambient-light illumination. A sample of a bodily fluid from a female is deposited at the sample receiving surface of the optical system and dried. The dried sample is then inspected using the optical system and the appearance of the dried sample is correlated with a reference.

[illegible]